

IAC-D-57/23
10 January 1956

Post-Mortem on NIE 12-56:

Probable Developments in the European Satellites

Through 1960,

dated 10 January 1956

I. Findings

1. NIE 12-56, the annual estimate of trends in the European Satellites, was coordinated without major delays or serious disagreement. The principal differences centered around questions of judgment: (a) whether Soviet leaders might be considering some modification in the essentially coercive nature of their control over the Satellites; (b) how far Soviet relations with Yugoslavia, China, or the neutralist states may have a bearing on Moscow's policy in the Satellites; (c) to what extent coordination of the Satellite economies would be effective; (d) the extent of disaffection among the Satellite populations; and (e) to what extent the Satellite armed forces could be employed in the event of general war.

2. While most of the difficulties encountered in the preparation and coordination of NIE 12-56 were the result of long-standing deficiencies of data on the Satellites, the course of coordination made clear that, currently, a significant gap in our knowledge of the Satellites concerns the Satellite Communist parties. Specifically, we do not know enough concerning the character, size, and influence of various factions and divisions within the Satellite parties. It is not clear in what way divisions within the Soviet regime are reflected in shifts in Satellite leadership and policies. The extent to which factions within the Satellite parties are desirous of imitating Tito also needs illumination.

II. Action

It is recommended that a Satellite equivalent of the Caesar study be undertaken in the form of a pilot study dealing with possible factions in the Czechoslovak Communist party.